

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03982 251839Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-02 SY-05 HA-05 /064 W
-----110694 251848Z /47

O R 251745Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7578
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3982

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, NU
SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE- 2:20PM AUGUST 24, 1978

1. OPENING STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA: BRIEFLY RECOUNTING THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO DAYS, THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE NATIONAL GUARD COULD HAVE CLEARED OUT THE TERRORISTS AT THE NATIONAL PALACE IT WOULD HAVE COST THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD AND THE LOSS OF HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT LIVES. BECAUSE HE COULD NOT SACRIFICE NICARAGUANS TO THIS CRIMINAL ASSAULT HE NEGOTIATED WITH THE TERRORISTS WHO HAD COUPLED THEIR DEMANDS WITH THREATS TO KILL. FOR THEIR HELP IN ARRIVING AT A SOLUTION WITHOUT LOSS OF ADDITIONAL BLOOD, THE PRESIDENT THANKED THE THREE BISHOPS, THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE AND THE AMBASSADORS OF PANAMA AND COSTA RICA. HE ALSO COMPLIMENTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND OTHER CITIZENS TRAPPED IN THE PALACE FOR THEIR CALM DEPORTMENT AND COMMENDED THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR THEIR CALM PROFESSIONALISM AND VALOR IN A DELICATE SITUATION. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS DEEPEST SORROW FOR THOSE MILITARY AND CIVILIANS WHO FELL TO THE BULLETS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

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2. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS POSED BY BOTH NICARAGUAN AND FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, HE SAID THAT THE ASSAULT ON THE PALACE WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS THAT BEGAN WHEN CASTRO CAME TO POWER IN CUBA AND THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THERE WAS PARTICIPATION ON THE PART OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS THAT SUPPORTED THE SUBVERSIVE SANDINISTAS. ASKED IF HE CONSIDERED A "BETRAYAL" THE CHANGE IN

THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. TOWARDS NICARAGUA, HE SAID THAT NEW ADMINISTRATIONS OFTEN ADJUST POLICIES AND THAT THE GON HAD ADJUSTED TO THE NEW RELATIONS.

3. HE ALSO SAID THAT CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTZES WOULD BE PRESERVED, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO STATE OF SIEGE AND THAT SERVICES OF INFORMATION WOULD BE RESTORED TO NORMAL.

4. COMMENT: EMB WILL REPORT SALIENT ASPECTS OF Q & A SEPTEL. EMB FINDS SOMOZA'S REMARKS TO CONTAIN NO NEW INSIGHTS NOR INDICATIONS OF FUTURE ACTION. SOMOZA PROJECTED AN IMAGE OF CONTROL AND CALMNESS.
SOLAUN

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Message Attributes

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